



KRISTIANSEN

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Continuing to support families and jobs in the 2004 Legislature

I'm working to create a business climate that grows the economy and helps Washington attract and keep family-wage jobs in our communities.

In 2003, we passed a no-new-tax operating budget by filling a \$2.7 billion budget hole without raising taxes and leaving \$488 million in reserves. In 2004, we must continue to be fiscally responsible and create a supplemental budget that doesn't require new or increased taxes.

I'll do everything I can to make sure we end 2005 with a state operating budget that is sustainable and doesn't cut core services.

When Washington's employers succeed, families do too

I support critical reforms to provide jobs and prosperity for families:

- **Fix the workers' compensation program.** The lack of competition in the state-run industrial insurance system is causing great hardship on 70 percent of Washington's employers. We must follow on the good work started last session and continue improvements.
- **Make significant adjustments to the minimum wage.** Increased to \$7.16 an hour this year — it has become the highest in the nation, creating a new burden for employers and causing them to cut back on hiring.
- **Lift the regulatory burden.** We must give greater consideration to effects of agency rules on individuals, employers and their workers. State agencies — such as Labor & Industries and the Department of Ecology — should act within the specific scope of their authority, and bear the burden of defending those rules.
- **Renew and extend tax incentives for rural communities.** Tax policies that encourage investment will go a long way toward protecting existing jobs and creating new ones. This is especially important to the hard-working people in our rural region in Northwest Washington.

Dear Friends and Neighbors

As your state representative, I'm committed to making state government more accessible and accountable. It should help bring about positive change—not hinder your success and prosperity.

Fiscal responsibility is first and foremost in my mind as I continue to serve you in Olympia. I will focus on strengthening families and the economy, and supporting our most basic needs including public safety, education and health care.

Gains were made last session, but more work needs to be done to preserve and create jobs.

Your input helps me do a better job of representing you and your family. I look forward to hearing from you!

Sincerely,

Dan Kristiansen
State Representative

Toll-free Legislative Hotline: 1-800-562-6000

Representative Dan Kristiansen

How agriculture and environment policies affect you and me

I'm committed to protecting your water rights and making sure new stormwater regulations don't put people out of business and affordable housing out of reach.

Water users, such as farmers in our own communities who practice good conservation measures by using water more efficiently or even changing the type of crops they grow, should not be punished by having water rights taken away.

New stormwater regulations required by the national Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will soon impact more than 100 counties and cities, including our own in Northwest Washington.

As the assistant Ranking Republican on the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee, I've proposed legislation to make sure the Department of Ecology creates rules that meet EPA standards, are fair, based on sound scientific evidence, and affordable to implement. It will also make sure any new rules don't send the price of new housing through the roof.



Education: the whole picture



Rep. Kristiansen talking with students from Snohomish High School

Our students represent the hopes and dreams of our future. The teachers' strike in Marysville was a stark reminder of what is at stake where our children's quality education is concerned. To make it easier for excellent teachers to teach and all children to learn, I support:

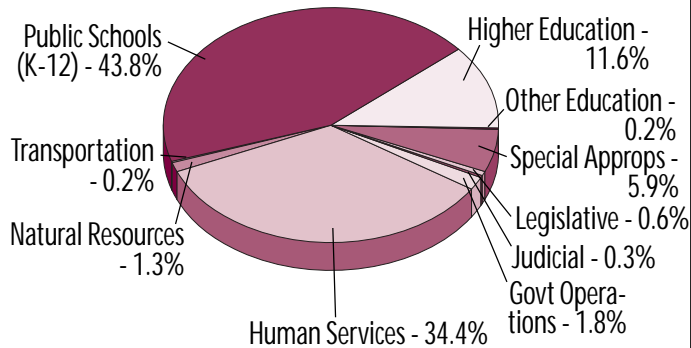
- Preventing labor disputes from taking an unnecessarily heavy toll on our children and their families.
- Improving the Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL).
- Recruiting, retaining and rewarding quality teachers.
- Allowing districts to create opportunity schools.



Supporting families and jobs in the 2004 Legislature

A strong economic backbone, and the tax revenues it produces, helps pay for our children's education. We must make sure our state becomes a vital place to do business so employers succeed and families benefit because parents are gainfully employed.

2003-05 State Operating Budget - General Fund



About 58 percent of your state budget dollar pays for all education in Washington. Of that, K-12 receives nearly 44 percent and higher education nearly 12 percent.

Protecting families and communities

It's time to impose stronger penalties for the manufacturing of methamphetamine. We can put an end to this growing threat to our communities' safety and the environment by making it a strike under the state's "three strikes" law.



We need to keep sex offenders out of our neighborhoods and in prison by increasing punishment for those who prey on children, beginning with the first offense.

A stronger punishment for people who steal cars is long overdue. I'm working to safeguard your investment and keep auto insurance rates reasonable.

Solutions to the health care crisis are within reach

Families in rural areas like ours are losing access to health care services. We can help more Northwest Washington families get and afford health care coverage by removing government mandates and giving employers greater flexibility to offer working families affordable, basic health coverage.

Rising medical malpractice insurance premiums are forcing doctors to leave Washington and stop delivering babies. I will push for liability reforms to control the escalating cost of malpractice insurance and keep good doctors in our communities.



Introduced House Bill 2354 to help seniors get a break on the cost of their Medicare Supplement insurance — in some cases as much as \$100 a year. Let's not punish those who responsibly cover themselves by making them pay more. My legislation would allow insurers to again offer discounts for various payment methods including electronic deposit or annual installments.

Representative Dan Kristiansen

Contact Information

Your feedback helps me serve you better

If you have questions or ideas about issues being addressed by the Legislature, I'd like to hear from you. Because we are entering an election year, the law allows us to send you only two House-sponsored mailings between now and November. We can, however, continue our communication and correspond with constituents who contact us with questions or requests for information regarding specific issues.

One of the easiest ways to contact me is to go to my Web site

<http://hrc.leg.wa.gov/members/kristiansen> and click on the **FEEDBACK** button.

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